

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, US, FI, EC

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR AUSTAD'S INVITATION TO
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS TO VISIT
FINLAND -- ACTION MEMO

REF: HELSINKI 2512

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS FROM J. L. KATZ

1. U.S. AMBASSADOR MARK EVANS AUSTAD HAS CABLED DEPT.
INVITING YOU TO VISIT FINLAND BRIEFLY FROM STOCKHOLM TO
DISCUSS PENDING US ACTION AGAINST FINNISH CHEESE. GLITMAN
AND I STRONGLY RECOMMEND YOU DECLINE. EUR CONCURS.

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2. AUSTAD'S MESSAGE: QUOTE. UNDERSTAND YOU WILL BE IN

STOCKHOLM EARLY NEXT WEEK. CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO VISIT HELSINKI, IF ONLY FOR A FEW HOURS. WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS PROBLEM OF POSSIBLE U.S. COUNTERVAILING DUTY ON FINNISH CHEESE, WHICH OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE HERE. AUSTAD. UNQUOTE.

3. BACKGROUND:

DURING OCTOBER, 1975 CONSULTATIONS HERE AMBASSADOR AUSTAD DISCUSSED MATTER OF FINNISH CHEESE EXPORTS TO U.S. WITH U.S. INDUSTRY REPS. CONVERSATIONS APPARENTLY RESULTED IN MISUNDERSTANDING OF FACTS. AMBASSADOR WAS LED TO BELIEVE THAT IF FINNS STOPPED EXPORTING "CHEESE FOR FURTHER PROCESSING"

PETITIONER WOULD WITHDRAW COMPLAINT NOW BEFORE TREASURY. WE UNDERSTAND AMBASSADOR ADVISED GOF, INCLUDING PRESIDENT OF FINLAND, TO THIS EFFECT. IN FACT, BULK OF FINNISH CHEESE EXPORTS TO U.S. ARE EMMENTHALER -- WHICH AMBASSADOR APPARENTLY ASSUMED ARE "TABLE" CHEESES NOT RPT NOT FALLING WITHIN "PROCESS" CATEGORY -- AND PETITIONER (NATIONAL CHEESE INSTITUTE, WITH WHOM AUSTAD DID NOT RPT NOT SPEAK) HAS MADE CLEAR THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF WITHDRAWING COMPLAINT UNLESS FINLAND ELIMINATES SUBSIDIES ON ALL CHEESE FOR FURTHER PROCESSING; INCLUDING EMMENTHALER. THIS FINNS ARE REPORTED UNWILLING TO DO. THUS TREASURY MUST COUNTERVAIL BECAUSE BOTH EC AND AUSTRIA REMOVED SUBSIDIES ON EMMENTHALER, ALLOWING FOR WAIVER.

4. HELSINKI HAS GIVEN RECENT FULL REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT (HELSINKI 2455), WHICH IS BEING REPEATED TO YOU SEPARATELY.

5. IN VIEW ABOVE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR YOU TO VISIT HELSINKI NOW. WE ARE STILL TRYING TO WORK OUT SOME SOLUTION HERE. YOUR VISIT TO HELSINKI WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY GIVE FINNS WRONG IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE ON VERGE OF SOME SOLUTION, WHEN OPPOSITE IS UNFORTUNATELY THE CASE. VISIT--EVEN FOR TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR ONLY-- COULD PUT YOU, US AND AMBASSADOR IN EVEN TIGHTER BOX, SINCE FINNS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BECOME AWARE OF IT (AND WOULD PROBABLY SEEK RAISE RANGE OF OTHER ISSUES WITH YOU CONFIDENTIAL

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AS WELL).

6. RECOMMEND YOU RESPOND TO AMBASSADOR'S INVITATION EXPRESSING REGRET THAT WASHINGTON COMMITMENTS REQUIRE YOUR IMMEDIATE RETURN, AND AGREE TO TELEPHONE AUSTAD FROM STOCKHOLM (HE HAS INDICATED POSSIBILITY HIS COMING TO STOCKHOLM IF YOU CANNOT MAKE IT TO HELSINKI). SUGGESTED TEXT FOLLOWS:

7. (TEXT OF PRIORITY CABLE ACTION AMEMBASSY HELSINKI, INFO DEPT - NORMAL DISTRIBUTION). QUOTE FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS. GREATLY REGRET PRESSURE OF WASHINGTON SCHEDULE REQUIRES MY RETURN THERE SOONEST POSSIBLE. AS A RESULT MY STOCKHOLM TRIP ALREADY HAS BEEN CUT TO ONE WORKING DAY, AND COMMITMENTS THERE MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TAKE ANY TIME OUT FOR VISIT TO HELSINKI. I HAVE YOUR NOVEMBER 14 REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT (HELSINKI 2455), BUT WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE HAVING YOUR PERSONAL VIEWS ON THIS MATTER AND WILL TELEPHONE YOU FROM STOCKHOLM MONDAY. ENDERS. UNQUOTE.

8. FOR OECD PARIS: IF ASSISTANT SECRETARY APPROVES, APPRECIATE YOUR PREPARING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NIACT IMMEDIATE CABLE TO HELSINKI SLUGGED "FOR AMBASSADOR" (INFO ROUTINE DEPARTMENT) USING ABOVE TEXT. KISSINGER

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